GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
VACANT POSTS IN CONSUMER COURTS
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts are laying vacant in the State and District Consumer Fora;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date and remedial action taken in this regard indicating the number of fora rendered nonfunctional as a result thereof,State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government for making it obligatory for States to constitute the State and District Consumer Fora;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether some officers at State and District level are proposed to be empowered to constitute the Fora; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b) At present there are 35 State Commissions and 613 District Fora established in the country which are required to be manned by one President and two Members each. According to report received from National Commission at present there are 6 posts of Presidents and 11 posts of Members vacant in the State Commissions and 93 posts of Presidents and 264 posts of Members vacant in the District Fora. In spite of this, all State Commissions are functional and only 50 District Fora are non-functional at present. State-wise details of vacancy position and non-functionality of Consumer Fora as informed by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission are at Annexures I & II respectively. It is further stated that the responsibility of establishing the State Commissions & District Fora and ensuring their uninterrupted functioning is that of the State Governments/UT Administrations.However, the Central Government has been impressing upon the States/UTs to take the following measures, among others, to ensure that the Consumer Fora remain functional;-

i) Take advance action in filling up of vacant posts

ii) Maintain panel of candidates for filling up of the vacant posts.

iii) Clubbing of neighbouring District Fora, wherever required.

Further, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been amended to provide for the senior most Member of the State Commission and the District Forum to preside over the Forum in the absence of the President,due to any reason.

(c) & (d): Section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 makes it obligatory for the State Government/Union Territory Administration to establish a State Commission in each State and a District Forum in each District of the State/UT.Wherever deemed necessary,the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are empowered to establish more than one District Forum in a district.The details of State Commissions and District Fora established by the States/UTs are indicated at Annexure-II.

(e): No Sir.

(f): In view of (e) above, the Question does not arise.